

DPD 0532-61

27 January 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Ambassador Hugh S. Cumming

1. As I was at AEC Headquarters in Germantown at the time of yesterday's DD/P Staff Meeting, I only this afternoon learned of Ambassador Cumming's imminent departure from the position of Director of Intelligence and Research. It goes without saying that I find this move considerably disquieting for a number of reasons.

2. As you know, Cumming not only served as a focal point for us in dealing with various geographic elements of State, but in many instances he was a valuable catalyst in our dealings with the Air Force and SAC. As a matter of fact, I frequently learned more of SAC's plans from him than I ever did from Leo.

3. Do you feel that we should attempt to cultivate the same sort of close working relationship with his successor, Roger Hilleman, that we had with Hugh? Personally, if Howard Elting is to remain as the deputy, I doubt that we can look to him for much except a certain amount of continuity in our dealings with the limited circle in State who are cleared for our business. Perhaps you have not had a chance to think this through, but at some point I would appreciate your oral opinion.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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